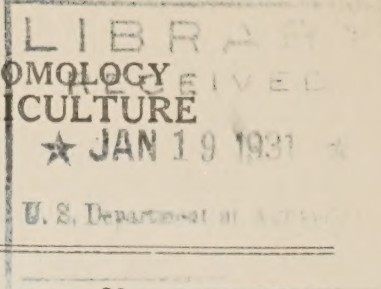


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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Number 199

November, 1930

INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

F. C. Bishopp, in Charge

Dr. W. V. King arrived in Yokohama, Japan, on November 1, en route to Manila, Philippine Islands. Doctor King is on a year's leave of absence from the Bureau of Entomology to make intensive studies of the Anopheles mosquitoes of the Philippine Islands, under the auspices of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. This work was begun by Doctor King during a six months' leave of absence in 1928-29, and he expects on the present assignment to clear up, at least in large part, the specific identity and biological relationships of the more important Anopheles of the Philippine Islands.

Since his return on October 1 from a trip of three and one-half months through the southern Bahama Islands, many islands surrounding Cuba, and the Isle of Pines, Harold S. Peters has been engaged largely in compiling his notes and caring for the material collected on the trip. Mr. Peters accompanied the West Indian Expedition headed by Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the National Museum. He devoted special attention to the collection of ectoparasites of birds and to a study of the situation as to the sand fly on the islands visited. A large collection of Mallophaga was made, and accurate host and distribution records were obtained.

D. G. Hall was transferred November 4 from the investigations of the eye gnat in Coachella, Calif., to Charleston, S. C., where he will assist Dr. W. E. Dove in work on the sand fly.

J. L. Webb left Washington on November 15 for Ames and other places in Iowa, for a few weeks' cooperative work with the Iowa Experiment Station and Extension Service on the problem of the horse bots.

Prof. W. C. O'Kane visited this division on November 20 for a conference on insecticide investigations, with reference to certain ectoparasites of livestock.

On November 26 Dr. C. J. Drake and Roy Melvin conferred with this division on various phases of the investigation of insects affecting livestock and poultry, in which the Iowa Experiment Station is especially interested.

Harold S. Peters spent the last week of November in Central Pennsylvania with officers of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, investigating insect parasites of white-tail deer.

FOREST INSECTS

F. C. Craighead, in Charge

A film strip, entitled "Preventing Termite Damage, Series 260," is available for distribution by the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture. This film strip, with a 7-page lecture, may be purchased for 35 cents.

The field laboratory for the study of forest insects, and associated offices, recently at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., have been moved and are now established in the new \$500,000 building on the campus of the University of California, at Berkeley, which houses the Giannini Foundation. The new location will afford close contact with the California State Experiment Station, the University of California Forestry School, and the educational work of the National Park Service. The shade-tree project, under Dr. H. E. Burke, will remain at Palo Alto for the present.

Conditions in the recreation areas in the region of Lake Tahoe have been the source of a great deal of correspondence and complaints from summer-home owners during the past season. The most serious problem is that due to the fir engraver beetle in white fir. During the season J. M. Miller has made several reconnaissance trips in company with Forest Pathologist Wagener.

An air survey of the Eastern Plumas pine type was made by K. A. Salman and J. M. Miller on October 8. At the request of the Forest Service a ground survey of this area had been made during the recent summer, and the survey from the air was made as a check to determine whether any important center of infestation has been overlooked; the use of the airplane was authorized by the Forest Service.

Dr. Salman has completed a survey, following up numerous letters and reports of forest officers from the San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests in southern California. A highly epidemic condition of the western pine beetle was found in Coulter pine on areas of the Cleveland Forest. Private owners in several of the recreational areas are planning to conduct control work this winter in cooperation with State and national forest officers.

A study of the life history of the fir engraver beetle and other aspects of the problem, in white fir, was carried on during the recent season by George R. Struble, assisted by P. C. Johnson. The association of a cambium-killing fungus with the attack of this beetle was pretty definitely established as a result of the season's work, and a number of new points in the life history and habits of the beetle were uncovered.

Houghton Durbrow and R. L. Furniss, who worked through the season as temporary field assistants on the Modoc and Lassen projects, assisted in the compilation of data for the reports of these projects until November 7, when their appointments were terminated. F. W. Bacon was another temporary assistant on the same projects.

The entire day of October 22 at the Feather River Training School of Forest Service was given over to discussion and field demonstrations in forest entomology led by J. M. Miller. The class this year consisted of 35 men from the national forests and the State and national park services of Region 5. Unusual interest in this subject was displayed.

Contributions from the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory

Early in November the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory was moved to new quarters at 1156 Main Street, Melrose Highlands, Mass.

Visitors to the laboratory in November included Dr. N. S. Scherbinovsky, of Tashkent, Russia, on November 19, and M. H. Ford of Harlingen, Tex., and B. L. Boyden, of Indio, Calif., on November 24.

On November 19 a small shipment of parasites of the birch leaf-mining sawfly, Phyllotoma nemorata Fall., was received from P. B. Dowden, of the European gipsy-moth station, at Budapest. This material, apparently consisting of two species of Hymenoptera, and arriving in a dormant condition, had been procured in lightly infested areas in northern Austria.

C. F. W. Muesebeck spent the period from November 13 to November 26 at the National Museum, studying the types of certain Braconidae.

COTTON INSECTS

B. R. Coad, in Charge

B. R. Coad returned to Tallulah, La., on November 6 from an extended trip to the West. While in the West he conferred with the men in charge of the investigations of the pink bollworm, *Thurberia* weevil, and cotton leaf perforator, reviewed with them the work of this season, and outlined investigations for the coming year.

C. H. Billett returned on November 16 from an extended trip in the West, where he had made a large number of photographs relating to investigations of the pink bollworm, *Thurberia* weevil, and cotton leaf perforator.

On November 29 M. T. Young and G. L. Garrison left for Tucson, Ariz., where for the next several months they will assist in the investigations of the *Thurberia* weevil and the pink bollworm.

On November 9 D. A. Isler returned to Tallulah from the West, and left on the 26th for Presidio, Tex., where he will assist in outlining tests on control of the pink bollworm.

In November T. C. Barber returned to his headquarters at Brownsville, Tex., to continue studies there on the cotton leaf perforator and the cotton flea hopper.

TROPICAL, SUBTROPICAL, AND ORNAMENTAL PLANT INSECTS

A. C. Baker, in Charge

Dr. Baker reached Los Angeles on November 24 from Honolulu, where he spent the preceding three months reorganizing the field laboratory there. After a short stop at the field laboratory at Whittier, Calif., Dr. Baker will return to Washington.

A. C. Mason, of the field laboratory at Honolulu, Hawaii, left the Hawaiian Islands on September 17 to spend a few months in the States. He stopped at the field laboratory at Lindsay, Calif., for consultation with E. A. McGregor, in charge, on problems relating to citrus thrips. He reached Washington on October 31, and has since been preparing manuscript on previous work, and consulting with Bureau officials.

Harold R. Yust has been given a probationary appointment as Senior Scientific Aid, with headquarters at Whittier, Calif., to assist in carrying out experiments relating to the resistance to hydrocyanic-acid gas of scale insects injurious to citrus trees in southern California, and similar problems. Mr. Yust comes to us with the degree of Master of Science from the North Carolina State College.

At Exeter, Calif., November 8, E. A. McGregor appeared before the fourteenth annual Fig Institute, and spoke on the economic importance and control of fig scale and red spider. An effort is to be made to publish the proceedings of the Institute.

STORED-PRODUCT INSECTS

E. A. Back, in Charge

Beginning October 30, D. F. Barnes and A. W. Morrill, jr., accompanied a representative of a prominent dried-fruit interest on a tour of inspection of raisin plants at Fowler, Selma, Kingsbury, Dinuba, Parlier, and Del Rey, Calif. The fig moth, Ephestia cautella, has assumed a position of major importance as a pest of dried fruits in California.

On November 7 and 8 Perez Simmons, D. F. Barnes, and A. W. Morrill, jr., attended the annual Fig Institute held at Exeter, Tulare County, Calif. Mr. Simmons read a paper entitled "Progress report for 1930 on work with fig insects," and an exhibit prepared at the Dried Fruit Insect Laboratory was displayed and attracted much attention.

On November 5 to 7 W. D. Reed visited tobacco establishments at Wilson and Rocky Mount, N. C., and at Richmond and Norfolk, Va. On November 12 to 15 Mr. Reed was in Washington, engaged in reference work.

On November 19 and 20 Dr. R. T. Cotton was in Norfolk, Va., checking results of grain fumigations at the Norfolk Elevator.

In the latter part of November George B. Wagner, of the flour-mill insect field laboratory, at Manhattan, Kans., visited milling establishments in and about Minneapolis, Minn., in the course of studies of conditions affecting export flour.

On November 15 George B. Wagner attended a meeting, at Kansas City, Mo., of the Operative Millers' Association.

In November several interesting cases of heavy infestation in Washington by the furniture carpet beetle, Anthrenus vorax, were brought to the attention of the Bureau.

An item of general interest, passed on by Perez Simmons, is that one man in California lost 70 sheep this fall when he attempted to "sheep off" the foliage and fruit of a vineyard where Paris green had been used last March against cutworms. The usual method for controlling the climbing cutworms which destroy many grape buds is to place poisoned mash in the crotches of the vines.

DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECTS

A. L. Quaintance, in Charge

Oliver I. Snapp attended the annual meeting of the entomologists and workers in the State Plant Board in Mississippi, held at A. & M. College, Miss., November 24 to 26, and gave an address on the results of recent experiments for control of peach insects. While at the college he lectured to all students taking courses in economic entomology and to the juniors and seniors taking plant pathology.

Contributions from the Japanese-Beetle Laboratory

T. R. Gardner recently returned to the Japanese-Beetle Laboratory after four years' work in Japan and Korea, where he has studied the parasites of Popillia japonica and made extensive shipments of them to the laboratory.

Beginning November 10 C. P. Clausen, formerly in charge of the foreign-parasite work of this laboratory, spent several days with T. R. Gardner in preparing manuscripts and reports.

On November 20 and 21 W. R. Walton, Senior Entomologist acting in charge, and L. J. King attended the New York meetings of the Eastern Branch of the Association of Economic Entomologists.

J. Peter Johnson, engaged in the quarantine work of the State of Connecticut, visited the laboratory on November 10.

TRUCK-CROP INSECTS

J. E. Graf, in Charge

The field laboratory at Richfield, Utah, for the study of the beet leafhopper, E. W. Davis, in charge, has been moved to Salt Lake City. This change was made in order to have the laboratory more in the center of the area under survey, so that the ground could be covered in much less time than it would be if the operations were centered in Richfield. The new quarters, at 601 McCormick Building, Salt Lake City, were occupied on November 5.

K. L. Cockerham and O. T. Dean, of Biloxi, W. B. Hollingsworth and M. H. Brunson, of Picayune, and F. A. Wright, of Bay St. Louis, all in Mississippi, attended the annual conference of the workers of the Mississippi State Plant Board, held at A. & M. College, on November 25 and 26, to discuss the problems of the sweet-potato weevil.

In the latter part of November C. B. Wisecup, of the field laboratory at Sanford, Fla., in company with Dr. F. L. Wellman, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, also stationed at Sanford, made an inspection trip in the Bradentown, Sarasota, and Everglade sections of southern Florida. This was done mainly to gather information as to damage by pests of vegetable crops. Injury by the tomato fruitworm and a mole cricket was found quite prevalent in the vicinity of Plant City, Palmetto, and Sarasota. Rather unusual damage by a wireworm was observed in the vicinity of Palmetto on fruit of the pepper plants. Peppers which lay on the ground were fed upon by the wireworms, causing some 5 to 10 per cent injury to the crop.

Appointments have been given to H. A. Mason, Agent, for duty at Columbus, Ohio, and to C. E. Woodworth, Associate Entomologist, for duty at Walla Walla, Wash.

TAXONOMY

Harold Morrison, in Charge

Dr. S. W. Frost, of the department of zoology and entomology, Pennsylvania State College, spent November 3 to 8 studying the leaf-mining Diptera of the family Agromyzidae in the National collection.

Dr. B. F. Driggers, of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, at New Brunswick, came to the taxonomic unit November 7 to discuss with the hymenopterists the parasites of the oriental fruit moth.

On November 13 to 26 C. F. W. Muesebeck, of the Bureau's gipsy-moth and brown-tail-moth laboratory, Melrose Highlands, Mass., worked in the section of Hymenoptera on a revision of the North American species of the braconid genus *Macrocentrus*.

On November 14 W. G. Bradley, of the Bureau's European corn-borer laboratory, Arlington, Mass., came to the taxonomic unit to discuss the hymenopterous parasites of the corn borer.

Dr. Z. P. Metcalf, of the department of zoology and entomology, North Carolina State College, at Raleigh, was in the National Museum November 18 and 19, examining the C. F. Baker card catalog of Homoptera, and especially the portion pertaining to the family Cicadellidae.

Dr. E. D. Ball, director of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station, Tucson, Ariz., spent November 14 to 15 and November 20 to 22 studying homopterous material in the National collections.

W. D. Reed, of the Bureau's tobacco-insect field laboratory at Danville, Va., recently came to the taxonomic unit to secure identifications of some hymenopterous parasites of stored-tobacco insects.

On November 25 Dr. C. P. Gillette, director of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, at Fort Collins, and J. S. Houser, chief entomologist of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, at Wooster, visited the taxonomic unit.

On November 26 to 28 Dr. C. J. Drake, of the department of zoology and entomology, Iowa State College, at Ames, studied Hemiptera of the families Tingidae and Anthocoridae in the National collection.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

W. H. Larrimer, in Charge

At the request of Senators Borah and Thomas, of Idaho, Dr. W. H. Larrimer made a brief trip, November 4 to November 13, to the Northwest, for the primary purpose of going over the wireworm situation in Idaho.

W. R. Walton and J. S. Wade attended the sessions of the Eastern Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, held in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, November 20 and 21.

Visitors at the Washington office in November were Prof. G. A. Dean, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Prof. C. W. Creel, of the University of Nevada, and J. S. Pinckney and E. J. Udine, of the field laboratory at Carlisle, Pa.

C. N. Ainslie, one of the oldest employees of the Bureau, both as to point of service and accumulation of years, has retired effective October 31, 1930. His long and conscientious service rendered to the Bureau and his valuable contributions to entomology are so well recognized by everyone that they need not be reviewed. Mr. Ainslie will continue to be associated with the Bureau as a Collaborator.

BEE CULTURE

Jas. I. Hambleton, in Charge

Dr. Warren Whitcomb, jr., in charge of the Southern States Bee Culture Field Laboratory, Baton Rouge, La., attended the meeting of the Alabama State Beekeepers' Association, at Montgomery, on November 6 and 7.

Dr. A. P. Sturtevant, in charge of the Intermountain Bee Culture Field Laboratory, Laramie, Wyo., and Dr. Warren Whitcomb, jr., in charge of the Southern States Bee Culture Field Laboratory, spent the week of November 10 at the headquarters of the Division of Bee Culture Investigations, at Somerset, in conference with the members of the staff.

Dr. E. F. Phillips, of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., stopped at the Bee Culture Laboratory November 1 and 2, to consult its bibliographical records.

D. Crawford Houston, of the California State Bureau of Commerce, Sacramento, visited the Bee Culture Laboratory on November 18 to consult about the shipment of package bees on the ocean.

W. C. Jacobsen, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Quarantine and Pest Control of the California Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, called at the laboratory on November 20 to discuss matters relative to apiary inspection.

Jas. I. Hambleton spent November 24 at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, to confer with members of the faculty of the Department of Biology and the School of Hygiene and Public Health.

The library of this division is indebted to George J. Abrams, of the University of Maryland, College Park, for the gift of the first three annual reports of the Maryland State Beekeepers' Association. The fourth to the sixteenth annual reports are still lacking from the library, but it is hoped that these may be received. Since the publication of Bibliographical Contribution No. 21, listing the apicultural literature of the department, several rare and valuable contributions have been received.

Prof. W. E. Dunham, instructor in apiculture at Ohio State University, Columbus, visited the laboratory on November 29.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

NEW BOOKS

British Museum (Natural History).

Insects of Samoa . . . Part VI. Diptera, fasc. 5, Ortalidae. By J. R. Malloch . . . Calliphoridae. By J. R. Malloch. p. 215-337. London, Trustees of the British Museum, 1930.

Dahl, Friedrich.

Die Tierwelt Deutschlands . . . 20 Teil. Zweiflügler oder Diptera IV: Syrphidae--Conopidae. 143 p., illus. Jena, Fischer, 1930. Contents: Sack, P. Schwebefliegen oder Syrphidae, p. 1-118; Kröber, O. Familie Conopidae (Blasenkopffliegen), p. 119-142.

Edwards, W. H.

Insect pests of sweet potato and of cassava in Jamaica. 12 p., plate. Kingston, Jamaica, G. P. O., 1930. (Jamaica Dept. Agr. Ent. Bul. 5.)

Efflatoun, H. C.

. . . A monograph of the Egyptian Diptera. Part III, Family Tabanidae. 114 p., illus., 2 col. pl. Le Caire, Imprimerie A. Lencioni, 1930. (Mémoire Soc. Roy. Ent. d'Egypte, t. 4, fasc. 1.)

Forbes, W. T. M.

Heterocera or moths (excepting the Noctuidae, Geometridae and Pyralidae). 171 p., 2 pl. New York, Pub. by the Academy, 1930. (N. Y. Acad. Sciences. Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands vol. XII, part 1. Insects of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands.)

Goodey, T.

. . . On a remarkable new nematode, Tylenchisema oscinellae gen. et spec. n., parasitic in the frit-fly, Oscinella frit L., attacking oats. Philosophical Trans. Roy. Soc. London, Ser. B. vol. 218, p. 315-343. pl. 22-26, June 28, 1930. [B 456] References, p. 340.

Gourlay, E. S.

. . . Preliminary host-list of the entomophagous insects in New Zealand. 13 p. Wellington, W. A. G. Skinner, 1930. (New Zealand Dept. Sci. & Indust. Research Bul. 22; Cawthron Institute, Nelson, Noxious Weeds Research Bul. No. 1.)

Howard, L. O.

A history of applied entomology (somewhat anecdotal). 564 p., 51 pl. Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1930. (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections v. 84 (whole volume). Publication No. 3065.)

Jaeger, E. C.

A dictionary of Greek and Latin combining forms used in zoological names. 101 p. Springfield, Ill., and Baltimore, Md., Charles C. Thomas, 1930.

Lindner, Erwin.

Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region, Lfg. 47-48. Stuttgart, E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1930. Lfg. 47. 34. Clythiidae (Platypezidae), S. 1-29. 38a, Dryomyzidae, S. 1-8, 38b, Neottiophilidae, S. 9-11, 42a, Tylidae, S. 1-17, 42b, Neriidae, S. 18; lfg. 48, 11 u. 12. Culicidae, S. 257-320.

Marshall, J. F.

The organization of mosquito control work. 10 p., illus. Hayling Island, Hants, [1930].

Munro, J. W., and Thomson, W. S.

Report on insect infestation of stored cacao. 40 p., illus. London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1929. (Empire Marketing Board (E. M. B.) 24.) Bibliography, p. 37-40.

North Negros Sugar Co., Inc.

Bulletin No. 1-6, pub. by North Negros Sugar Co. Inc. and Victoria Milling Co., Inc., July, 1929-March, 1930. Manapla, P. I., 1929-30. W. D. Pierce, Entomologist.

Pagden, H. T.

A preliminary account of three rice stem borers [*Diatraea auricilja* Dudg., *Schoenobius incertellus* Walk., *Sesamia inferens*, Walk.] 30 p., illus. Kuala Lumpur, F. M. S., June, 1930. (Fed. Malay States Dept. Agr. Sci. Bul. No. 1.)

Pelaghias, C. G.

Investigations into the locust plague in Cyprus. 21 p. Nicosia, Cyprus, Gov't Print. Office, 1929. (Cyprus. Dept. Agr. Ent. Ser. Bul. 1, Jan., 1929.)

Ris, F.

A revision of the libelluline genus *Perithemis* (Odonata). 50 p., 9 pl. Ann Arbor, Mich., pub. by the University, Sept. 2, 1930. (Mich. Univ. Mus. Zool. Misc. Pub. No. 21.)

Rogers, J. S.

The summer crane fly fauna of the Cumberland plateau in Tennessee. 50 p., 5 pl. Ann Arbor, Mich., pub. by the University, Aug. 15, 1930. (Occasional Papers, Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich. No. 215.)

Schenkling, S., ed.

Coleopterorum catalogus auspiciis W. Junk. Pars 111-112. Berlin, Junk, 1930. Contents: Pt. 111. Obenberger, J. Buprestidae II, p. 211-568; Pt. 112, Osiki, E. Carabidae: Harpalinae IV, p. 529-737.

Schmiedeknecht, Otto.

Die Hymenopteren. Nord- und Mitteleuropas mit Einschluss von England, Südschweiz, Südtirol und Ungarn . . . 1062 p., port. Jena, Fischer, 1930.

Snodgrass, R. E.

Insects-their ways and means of living. 362 p., illus., New York, Smithsonian Institution Series, Inc., 1930. (Smithsonian Scientific series, v. 5.)

Stichel, H.

Riodinidae II. Nemobiinae II et Riodininae I. 113-544 p. Berlin, Junk, Sept. 26, 1930. (Lepidopterorum catalogus, edited by Embrik Strand, pars 40.)

Thomas, C. A.

A review of research on the control of wireworms. 52 p., illus. State College, Pa., Penn. State College, 1930. Bibliography of wireworm control methods, p. 41-52.

Thorpe, W. H.

Biological races in insects and allied groups. Cambridge, at the Univ. Press, July, 1930. Reprinted from Biological Reviews, v. 5, No. 3, p. 177-212, July, 1930. Bibliography, p. 208-212.

Trinidad and Tobago. Froghopper Investigation Committee.

Minutes and proceedings, pt. XIX. 81-192 p. Trinidad, Gov't. Printing Office, Port of Spain, 1930.

Van Duzee, M. C.

Diptera of Patagonia and South Chile, based mainly on material in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). Part V, fasc. 1, Dolichopodidae. 92 p., illus. London, printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, 1930.

Vivarelli, Luigi.

. . . Entomologia agraria . . . Edizione seconda. 2 v., illus. Casale Monf., Casa editrice fratelli Ottavi, 1924-1929. (Lettered on cover: Biblioteca agraria Ottavi, vol. CX-CXI. (Contents: vol. I, Insetti nocivi alla vite. Vol. II, Insetti nocivi al frumento.)

Webel, A.

A German-English technical and scientific dictionary. 887 p. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1930

Yenching Univ. Peking, China. Dept. of Biology.

Bulletin, v. 1, No. 1, Jan., 1930. Contents: Kellogg, C. R. Notes on the life history and growth of silkworms in Fukien Province, p. 1-8; Gee, N. Gist. Some further notes on the elm moth, p. 9-10.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

THE CORRECT USE OF FREIGHT AND EXPRESS IN MAKING SHIPMENTS

(Letter from Department Traffic Manager dated November 1, 1930).
"Paragraph 91 of the Fiscal Regulations of the Department provides that express should be used only when the Postal Service can not be employed and freight service will not answer the needs of the Department.

"Recent analyses of the shipments reported to the Federal Traffic Board by this Department show five shipments made by express, totaling 4115 pounds, at a cost of \$179.84, which would have cost an aggregate of \$49.18 by freight, making a saving of \$130.66 over the charges by express. These figures should be given serious consideration by the personnel responsible for the shipment of all classes of commodities.

"Shipments should be prepared and routings requested in time to use the Intercoastal water carriers instead of rail, and make use of freight instead of express by careful consideration of the time necessary to delivery. Every effort should be made to anticipate shipping requirements so that the least expensive transportation may be utilized. Transcontinental shipments are made very much cheaper "intercoastal" (by water) than by rail, and can be taken advantage of if the shipments are started in time.

"Unless an emergency exists or the character of the shipment makes express necessary for more careful handling than would be accorded a freight shipment, the cheaper transportation should in all cases be used, in accordance with our policy of economy in administration."

REPORT OF SHIPMENTS - STANDARD FORM 9

"Under previous All Member letters concerning reports of shipments, Standard Form 9, authority was given to drop from Standard Form 9, reports of shipments, freight shipments weighing less than 500 pounds, and all shipments by express. Former authority to discontinue reporting of such shipments is hereby cancelled and the following will govern:

All freight shipments weighing 500 pounds or over must be reported;

All express shipments weighing 100 pounds or over must be reported.

"Attention is also called to the fact that the instructions on the back of Standard Form 9 are not being observed, particularly with respect to showing Federal Traffic Board routing order numbers. Failure to show routing order numbers in reporting shipments leads to unnecessary

correspondence both on the part of this office and of the departments making such reports, as such failure makes it necessary to inquire of the department whether or not the shipment in question was covered by routing order. Therefore, it is requested that the various departments renew their instructions that instructions on the back of these reports be properly observed."

A supply of these forms may be obtained from the Bureau of Entomology at Washington.

The following abstracts of recent decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States are of general interest:

Vol. 10, A-31995, page 11: Compensation - Fractional Parts of a Month-Resignations.

Where an employee resigns effective at the close of business February 27, he is not entitled to a full month's salary, but only to twenty-seven-thirtieths thereof.

"When the date of resignation of an employee is once fixed, no subsequent action, whether on the part of the employee or the employer or both, can change the date.

A-32514, page 31: Leases - Payment of Rent to Agent of Lessor.

The incorporation in a lease of a provision directing payment of rent to a designated agent of the owner does not constitute a power of attorney nor an assignment of the claim within the contemplation of section 3477, Revised Statutes, and when a lease is so drawn payment may be made to the designated agent.

A-32598, page 32: Payment, Advance. - Newspaper, Magazines, Periodicals.

The act of June 12, 1930, 46 Stat. 580, authorizing advance payments for newspapers, magazines, and periodicals from appropriations available therefor without regard to the provisions of section 3648, Revised Statutes, does not authorize the purchase of, or subscription to, newspapers not otherwise authorized by law to be purchased or subscribed to, nor the purchase of, or subscription to, magazines or other periodicals except such as may be shown to be required for official use and for which an appropriation is available, but does permit the establishment of the official need by evidence other than the written certificate of the head of the department or establishment. It seems clear that the act of March 4, 1915, 38 Stat. 1049, requiring certification in writing by the respective heads of the executive departments and other Government establishments that the subscriptions for periodicals are for official use was superseded by the act of June 12, 1930..

Vol. 10, A-32676, page 57: Traveling Expenses - Leave of Absence - Temporary Duty.

A civilian employee traveling under official orders from a place where he is on leave to a place not his headquarters for temporary duty, and return, is entitled to reimbursement of the expenses of transportation and subsistence while en route and while on such temporary duty, where the place where he was on leave is nearer to the place of temporary duty than is the regular duty station.

A-21625, page 72: Retirement - Uniform Retirement Date - Deductions.

Retirement deductions from the basic salary, pay, or compensation should be made for the period between the date during a month an employee would otherwise have been retired, and the first day of the following month, which is the effective date of retirement under the provisions of the act of April 23, 1930, 46 Stat. 253.

A-32975, page 83: Subsistence Expenses - Transportation Between Temporary Abode and Place of Duty.

The expenses incurred by an employee while away from his permanent station, in going from his hotel to his place of duty and returning therefrom, are incident to subsistence and are included in the allowance authorized therefor.

A-32996, page 100: Taxes - State - Gasoline Resold to Government Employees.

There is no authority for the payment of a State tax on gasoline sold to the United States, whether the gasoline be used for official Government business or for legally authorized resale to Government employees.

A-33319 - Miscellaneous - Oct. 7, 1930.

"In connection with the examination and settlement of fiscal accounts it has been observed by this office that many of the Federal departments and establishments are not fully availing themselves of the use of the standard forms of Government transportation request and Government bill of lading.

"The use of the Government transportation request, Standard Forms Nos. 1028 - 1031, as prescribed by General Regulations No. 46 and supplements thereto, should be extended wherever possible to transportation by all classes of recognized common carriers, including transportation by bus lines, stage lines and air lines, in conformity with decisions and regulations applicable thereto.

"The use of the Government bill of lading, Standard Forms Nos. 1058 - 1062, as prescribed by General Regulations No. 69, should be similarly extended to shipments of freight and express by all classes of recognized common carriers, including transportation by auto-truck lines, stage lines, and air lines.

"As the General Accounting Office maintains a complete file of tariffs of rates of common carriers, no delay should be experienced in the examination by this office of the transportation accounts, and by the extended utilization of the standard forms herein referred to the Government will be able to secure the benefit of the protection afforded by the special conditions contained thereon."

Vol. 10, A-33123, page 108: Contracts - Mistake in Bid- Withdrawal.

Whether a bidder may be allowed to withdraw its bid on the ground of an alleged mistake is a matter for determination by the Comptroller General of the United States. The rule of procedure as stated in 8 Comp. Gen. 397 still obtains.

A-33248, page 118: Retired Civilian Employees - Status Under Standardized Government Travel Regulations.

The reemployment of persons separated from the Government service and receiving annuities under the act of May 22, 1920, 41 Stat. 614, as amended by sections 2 of the acts of July 3, 1926, 44 Stat. 905, and May 29, 1930, 46 Stat. 469, being prohibited, the status of retired civilian employees in receipt of retirement annuities is considered more that of pensioners rather than employees in the sense that term is used in paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations. Accordingly, the prohibition contained in said paragraph 47(c) against employees of the Government, in an authorized travel status, obtaining meals and/or lodgings from other Government employees has no application to retired civilian employees.

A-33152, page 133: Travel Expense Vouchers - False Statements-Violation of Oath of Office.

Where an employee makes false statements as to certain items in his claim for reimbursement of expenses incurred, leaving doubt as to just what expenses were actually incurred, the entire claim will be disallowed.

"The presentation by an employee of a falsified travel expense account constitutes a violation of his oath of office and thereby works a forfeiture of all accrued and unpaid travel expenses incurred by him in connection with the duties of the position he held under such oath.

A-33552, page 148: Leases - Improvements.

"An agreement by officials of the Government to maintain leased premises in good repair and tenantable condition during the continuance of the lease, has reference to minor repairs made necessary by the use, so as to maintain them in the same condition they were in at the beginning of the tenancy, ordinary wear and tear excepted, and would not include the removal of an old smoke-stack and breeching and the furnishing and erection of a new stack and new breeching, which would not be a repair, but an improvement of the property.

A-32080, page 160: Advertising - Bids - Specifications.

Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes requires that the needs of the Government be stated in specifications so that there may be full and free competition thereon, and there is no authority for contracts entered into with a higher bidder meeting the specifications when the actual needs of the Government have not been stated in the specifications and the low bidder's offering would have met the needs had they been properly stated in the specifications. In such cases, there should be readvertisement in accordance with the law.